

The January 2005 Northland Cold Snap

The Northland's January 2005 cold snap began the night of January 13 when the high temperature for the day occurred at midnight (21 at DLH, 11 at INL). The temperatures fell through the day Thursday with noon readings at -6 in DLH and BRD -11 at INL, 6 above at HYR where the high at midnight was 2 degrees.

The cold snap continued through the weekend and Monday with lows well into the 20s and 30s below zero and daytime highs in the teens and single digits below zero.

Most schools across the region were closed on Friday due to the cold wind chills. Wind chills that morning at 700 am ranged from -44 at INL and -45 at Grand Marais to -15 and -17 at Hayward and Phillips respectively. Generally that morning, wind chills were in the 20s and 30s below zero. Wind chills below -40 were occasionally reached in northeastern Minnesota and far northern Wisconsin.

By Tuesday, January 18th the temperature finally broke zero. High temperatures Tuesday ranged from the mid teens to the mid 20s, recovering well from morning lows in the in the mid 20s and mid teens below zero.

Duluthians endured 119 straight hours of sub-zero temperatures. This is a far cry from the record of 186 hours set from January 12 through the 20th, 1996. This was the same cold snap during which the Minnesota record cold temperature was set in Tower at -60.

Below is a table depicting the daily temperatures for select National Weather Service reporting sites.

Maximum and Minimum Temperatures During the January 2005 Cold Snap

Site	Date					
	1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16	1/17	1/18
Duluth, MN NWS	21/-15	-4/-22	-6/-22	-6/-25	-4/-28	24/-10
International Falls, MN	11/-16	-7/-25	-12/-26	-13/-39	-11/-44	19/-13
Embarrass, MN	27/-10	-8/-28	-14/-31	-12/-48	-12/-54	12/-39
Brainerd, MN	3/-9	0/-33	0/-19	-2/-29	-2/-38	28/-6
Grand Marais, MN (near Lake Superior)	16/-6	5/-12	-5/-17	-2/-17	1/-27	16/-26
Moose Lake, MN	16/-6	0/-22	0/-22	0/-35	-4/-36	21/-27
Superior, WI	21/-6	0/-20	-2/-17	-2/-22	-4/-33	19/-26
Hayward, WI	21/-5	-1/-18	-2/-15	3/-28	0/-31	18/-21
Ashland, WI	18/-5	-1/-18	-2/-15	-1/-16	-1/-21	17/-22
Phillips, WI	25/0	0/-17	-2/-13	3/-20	1/-20	16/-18